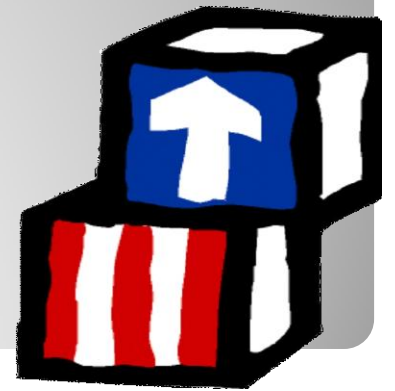


# Head Start 101



**A Webinar for the  
IL Early Learning  
Council**

# Background & Comprehensive Services

- Established 1965 - President Johnson's War on Poverty
- 1st & still only program with comprehensive service approach
- Overall goal: increase the social competence of young children from low income families



LBJ LIBRARY

# Goal & Contextual Approach

- Social competence = child's everyday effectiveness in present environment & later responsibilities in school & life
- Interrelatedness of children's cognitive, physical & social/emotional development
- Address the needs & strengths of the child within the context of his/her family within their culture & community

# Key Principles

- Comprehensive individualized child development services – curriculum, screening, assessment, outcomes
- Parent engagement & education
- Family centered approach
- Community based services & partnerships
- Strong effective management systems



# Service Delivery Options

- Center Based
- Home Based
- Family Child Care Homes
- Varies by area & based on: community assessment; family & community needs
- All licensed, except license exempt
- Services for preschool, infants/toddlers, pregnant women
- May be part or full day & year; EHS always full year



# Children's Services



- Evidence-based curricula
- Child screening & ongoing assessment
- OHS Approach to School Readiness includes Child Development & Early Learning (child outcomes) & Infant Toddler Frameworks
- Individualization for each & every child
- Planned transitions – to school & other settings
- Home Visits & Parent Conferences

# Health Services

- Medical and dental homes
- Child health status assessment
- Dental exams
- Preventive care & treatment
- Healthy routines & nutrition modeled
- Families assisted in accessing insurance
- Health education



# Services to Children with Disabilities

- At least 10% of enrollment
- Inclusive services
- Referrals to Early Intervention (DHS) and LEA (school districts early childhood special education)
- Training parents on roles/ responsibilities





# Family Partnerships

- Parent involvement/family engagement
- Family Partnership Agreements
- Emergency assistance, crisis intervention
- Referrals/access to community resources
- Family literacy
- Father involvement
- Parent education & involvement as volunteers, staff, & in governance



# Community Partnerships

- Have to partner to provide services
- Change agent in communities; advocacy
- Community involvement via Policy Council, Health & other advisory
- Community volunteers
- OHS Parent, Family & Community Engagement Framework – also part of the OHS School Readiness Approach

# Program Management

- Shared governance among board, staff & parents
- Annual program self-assessment, CA & ongoing monitoring systems part of CQI
- Fiscal systems/accountability
- Management systems include planning, monitoring, HR, communication, record keeping & reporting
- Strong management = support for quality services



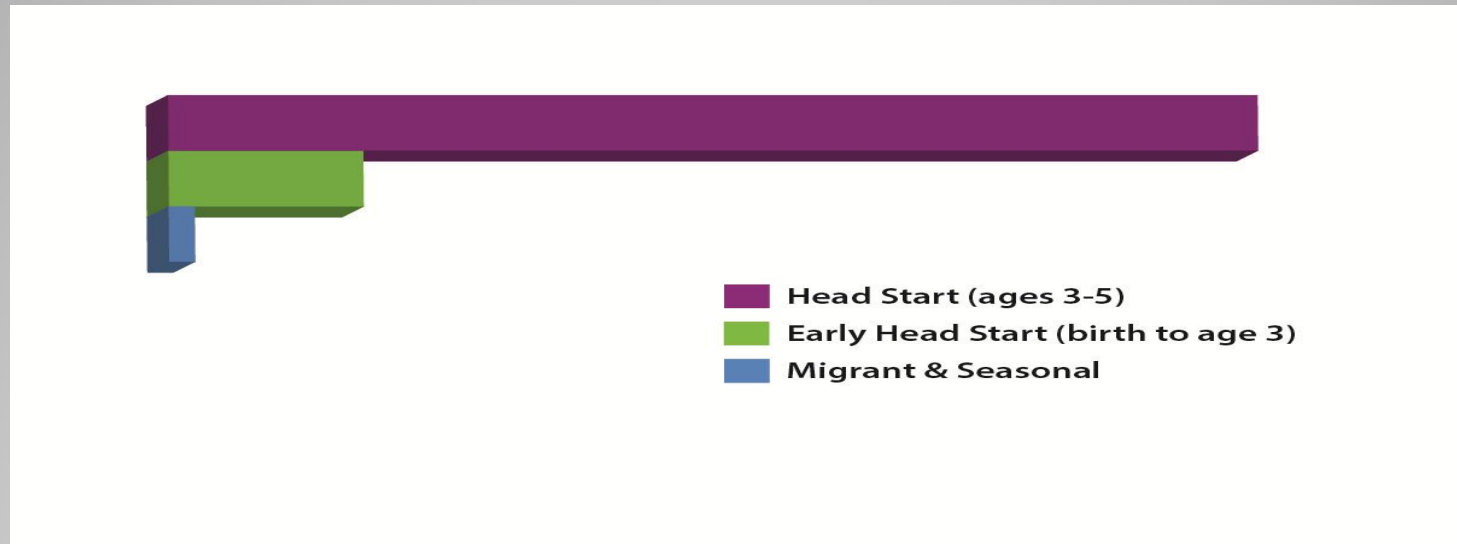
# Office of Head Start On-Site Monitoring



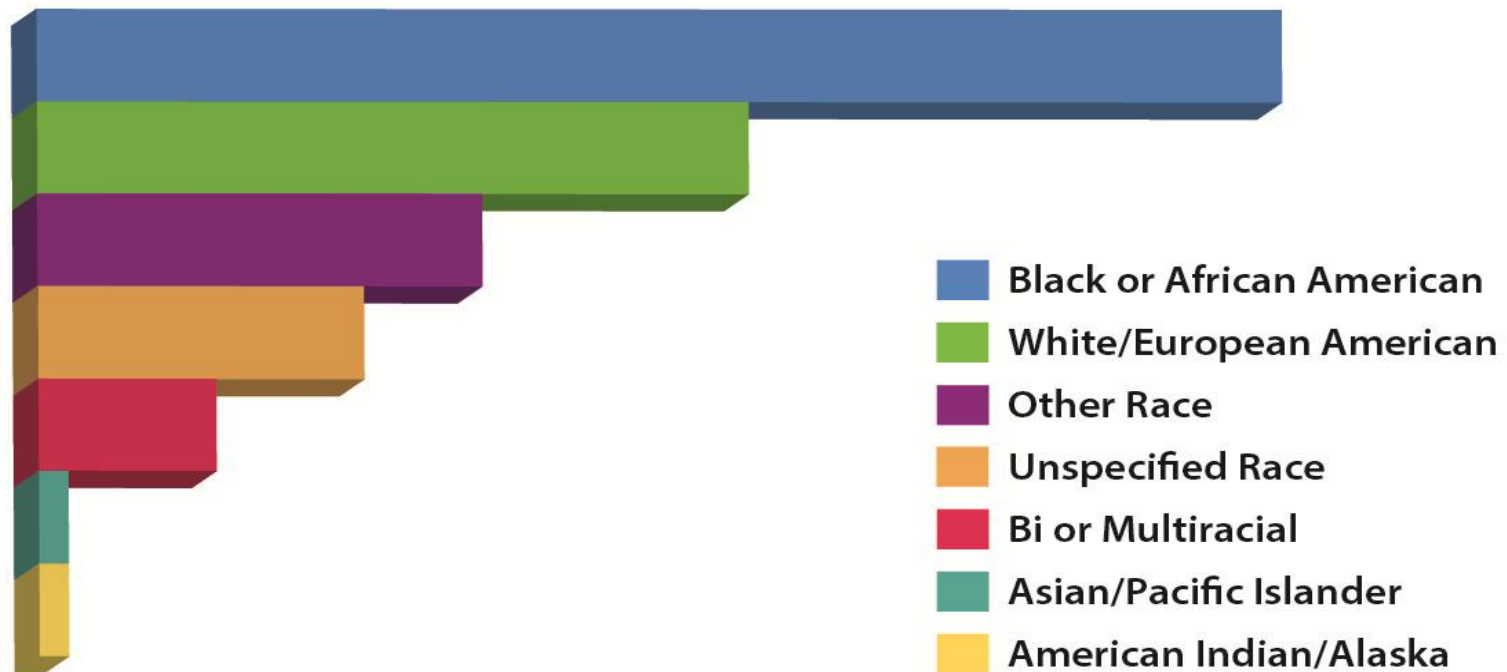
- 3 year cycle
- Protocol & Review Teams
- 7 Content areas
- Each have Key Indicators of Program Performance & Compliance Measures
- Reviewer data goes to OHS
- Reviewer guides include interviews, document & file reviews & observations

# IL Head Start Facts

- Almost 52,000 children served 2011-12



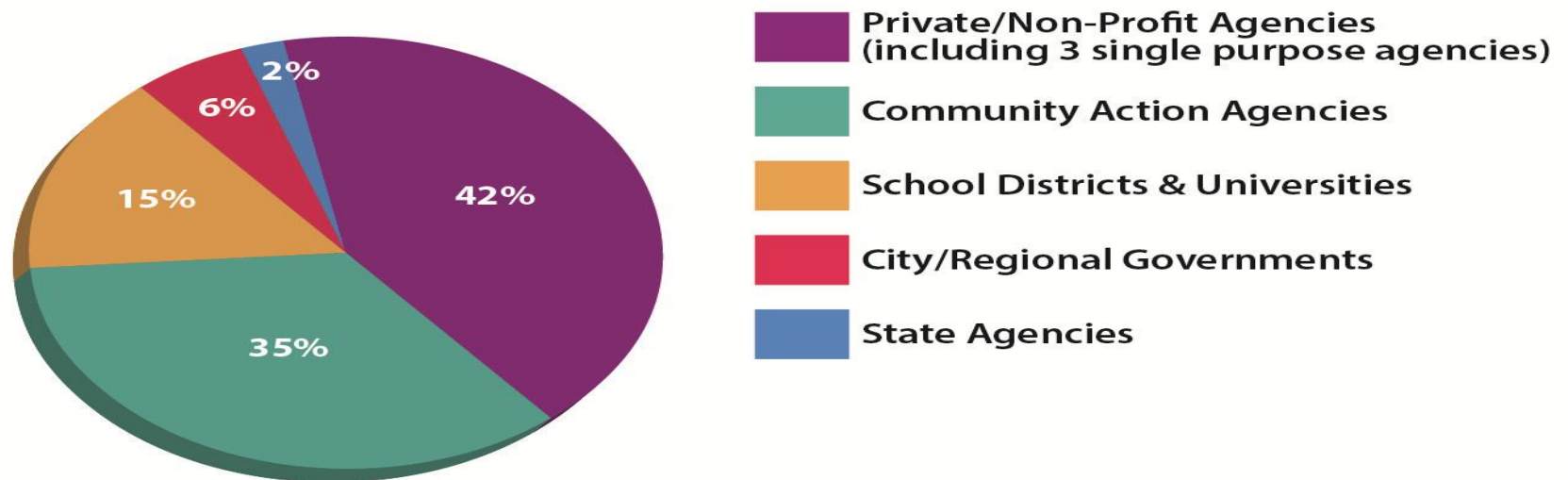
- 17% enrolled less than 45 days
- >96% had medical home; >84% dental
- 30% in 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 11% in 3<sup>rd</sup> or more

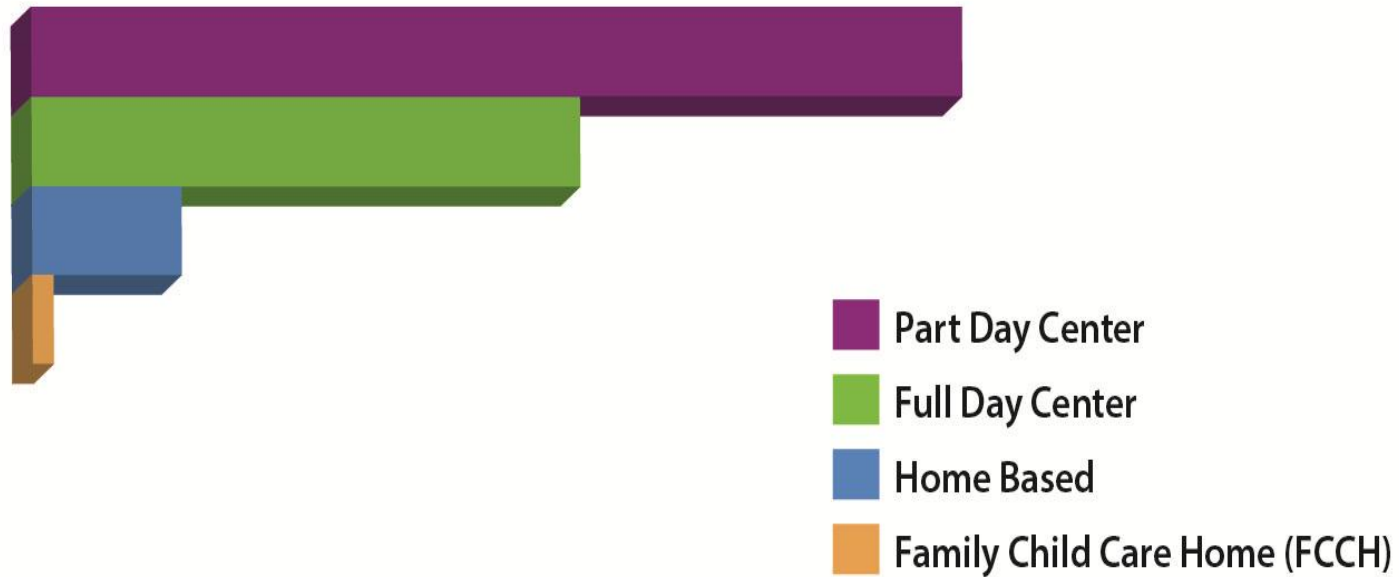


- 34% children - Hispanic or Latino origin

## IL Head Start Facts

- 48 grantee agencies; >60 delegates
- IL average cost/child: HS \$7,031(national \$7,087); EHS \$10,869 (national \$10,591)
- >9,000 staff persons; 17% current/former parents





- IL HS/EHS Program Options

## IL Head Start Facts



## Families

- More than 47,400 low income families
- 67% single parent
- 90% below income; allow for 10% over
- 5% experiencing homelessness; 9% involved in child welfare
- 61% working; 13% training/school
- 35% less than high school; 36% have high school diploma/GED
- 16% TANF/SSI

## IL Head Start Facts

# Head Start Families

- Categorical eligibility categories
- Recruitment & enrollment processes
- Reaching the hard to reach & serve
- Lowest income threshold – 100% or >FPL;  
provision for 130%



# Opportunities & Challenges

- Sequestration
- Designation Renewal System
- Five year grant/funding period shift
- Partnerships
- Federal focus shift to school readiness



# Opportunities & Challenges

- Federal enrollment mandate



**Level 3: PFA**  
*Least Restrictive*

**Level 2: Child Care**  
(income/service)

**Level 1: Head Start**  
(income/age)  
*Most Restrictive*

# IL Head Start Resources

- [www.ilheadstart.org](http://www.ilheadstart.org) IL Head Start
- [www.ilearlychildhoodcollab.org](http://www.ilearlychildhoodcollab.org) IL Early Childhood Collaboration
- <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc> Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ohs> ACF Office of Head Start
- [http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/monitoring/fy2013pdf/FY2013\\_OHS\\_On-Site\\_Review\\_Protocol.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/mr/monitoring/fy2013pdf/FY2013_OHS_On-Site_Review_Protocol.pdf) HS Monitoring Protocol



*For they are all our children. And we will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become.*      *--James Baldwin*